

[Sri M. A. Manickavelu Naicker] [9th August 1954]

request that hon. Members may pass the motion for referring this Bill to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members :—

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu Naicker.

„ C. Subramaniam,

Sri K. Rajaram.

„ L. C. Pais,

„ K. H. Bomman,

„ A. S. Subbaraj,

„ N. Mahalingam,

„ S. Kandasami Gounder,

„ K. M. Seethi Sahib,

„ H. B. Ari Gowder,

Dr. K. B. Menon,

Sri M. P. Subramanyam,

„ S. Deivasigamany,

„ M. Kalyanasundram and

„ C. H. Kanaran.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ The question is—

‘ That the Madras Plantations Agricultural Income-tax Bill, 1954, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members :—

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu Naicker,

„ C. Subramaniam,

Sri K. Rajaram,

„ L. C. Pais,

„ K. H. Bomman,

„ A. S. Subbaraj,

„ N. Mahalingam,

„ S. Kandasami Gounder,

„ K. M. Seethi Sahib,

„ H. B. Ari Gowder,

Dr. K. B. Menon,

Sri M. P. Subramanyam,

„ S. Deivasigamany,

„ M. Kalyanasundram and

„ C. H. Kanaran.”

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I appoint the Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu Naicker to be the Chairman of the Select Committee.

“ The half-hour debate on the acquisition of house-sites for Harijans in Malabar will commence now.”

IV.—HALF-HOUR DEBATE *RE* ACQUISITION OF HOUSE-SITES FOR HARIJANS IN MALABAR.

MR. SPEAKER :—“ I shall allow the hon. Member, Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar, 10 minutes, Sri A. Ratnam, 5 minutes, Sri Narayana Kurup, 5 minutes and the Hon. Minister, 10 minutes.”

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* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—“ Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the homeless and poor Harijans of Malabar, let me, first of all express my thanks for allowing a half-hour debate on this subject. The question whether 15 cents of land can be granted as house-site to each Harijan family in Malabar has become very important and prominent nowadays. At the outset, let me submit that there are some 80,000 Harijan families in Malabar consisting of 5 to 5½ lakhs of members, the majority of whom have no house-sites of their own. About 25 per cent of the Harijan members of these 80,000 families are not at all having houses to live in. They live in the verandahs of some shops or in public places like pavements.

“ Another most important thing is this: Traditionally, the Harijan families of Malabar have been living in some houses for the last several centuries. But after the passing of the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Act, some hundreds of such Harijan families have been compulsorily evicted from their homesteads. I hope the Hon. the Minister for Harijan Welfare would have recently received some representations in this regard from the Cannanore Municipality itself. One Umbichi, a Harijan woman, and one Appa, an old Harijan, who were living in their own houses were compulsorily evicted and when they complained to the authorities concerned, one fine morning a month back the janmi with some goondas came there and completely demolished the two houses. They are now in the streets. Another instance about which I myself have written a letter to the Hon. Minister is that of one Marathan of Polacheri village who did not vote for a particular candidate of a Moplah landlord. The reason why I am saying all these things is this: Because the Harijans have no houses of their own, because they have no house-sites of their own, they are compelled even to sell their right to hold their own opinions and freedom to vote. It will not be an exaggeration if I say that in certain rural parts—I request I may be excused when I place before you a matter of fact—even the chastity of Harijan women is not at all respected by these people.

“ In 1949, the Government passed an order in which it was stated that some 5 cents of land would be allotted to each Harijan family. But as a result of representations made by various political parties as well as Harijan Welfare Associations, they amended it in 1951 and stated that every Harijan family would be given some 15 cents of land as house-site. As far as my information goes, so far no Harijan family has been given a house-site. Such being the case, I do not know what benefit is there in merely passing an order. It is high time that the Government should see that house-sites are granted to these people. In this connection, I have to make clear one point. The Hon. Minister as well as some other hon. Members is under the impression that after the passing of the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Act, the ulkudidars, that is, the people who live in huts constructed either by themselves or by the landlords, have got some permanency.

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That is not so. I have got so many examples to cite where under compulsion Harijans are made to sign documents in which it is stated that they are given those houses on rent. If they are given on houses a rental basis, the uikudi right is not applicable to those people. There are such cases in Cannanore, Kattampalli, Narath, Kolacheri and other places. It is no exaggeration to say that some Harijan families in the interior have no houses at all. They are in the streets. For example, Kanhathi, Panchu and Narayanan were driven away from their house in Narath by the landlords and their goondas. Representations have been made to the Government, the Collector and the Harijan Welfare Department, but no action has been taken so far. One day when the Collector, Sri Prasad, visited the place on some other business, the matter was represented to him. He wanted to negotiate with the landlord and settle the matter. But, unfortunately, the landlord did not yield and as a result, even to-day, they have not got one house-site.

"Sir, it is stated that when cases are filed against the Harijans the Government will provide legal assistance. But in actual practice, no legal assistance is given to any Harijan. This is the position in Malabar.

"Mention has been made about the leasing of cultivable lands to landless poor people in Malabar. The case of Malabar is very peculiar. It is not like Tamilnad or Karnataka where the Government have got enough waste lands to be distributed among the Harijans and other poor landless people. In Malabar, major portion of the waste lands belongs to private landlords. In the Malabar Tenancy Act, there is a provision that the Government can take these lands and distribute them to the needy people provided the landlords say that they do not want to cultivate those lands themselves. Nowadays, no landlord is going to say that he does not want to cultivate the land himself.

"After the passing of the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Act, most of the landlords like the Kalliat Nambiar, Kunhimayan Hajee, Chirakkal Raja and others have leased thousands of acres of land in favour of their sons, nephews and other relatives. So, on record you cannot find that those big landlords have so many acres of land in their possession. The Government must come forward to take possession of such lands and distribute them to the thousands of homeless people. Apart from this, the Government must also give some financial help to these poor people to construct houses on such lands. The Government must take immediate action in this matter and see that the lot of these thousands of poor people is improved."

* SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of granting house-sites to Harijans in Malabar is one of great importance and urgency and in the name of social justice, I say that no delay should be permitted in this matter. From time immemorial, these Harijans were living in homes and huts over which they had no right with the consequent economic subjection

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and detriment to their personal liberties. There is a false sense of security as was evidenced by the answer given by the Hon. Minister on this question in which he said that with the passing of the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Act, this problem had ceased to be of urgent importance. That it is not so is quite evident. Because, a Harijan may be in possession of a hut for ten or twenty years, but still he will have no document to prove this. Even his neighbours will not come forward to give evidence in his favour. According to the provision relating to the restricted security against eviction, a Harijan has to prove that he was in occupation of a particular house-site for a period of twelve months. It is not possible for him to prove this as there is no document in his favour. He does not pay any revenue, he does not pay any rent and it is a fact that he simply lives in gardens and compounds of other people and work for them for half wages with all other attendant disabilities. Harijans in Malabar come to 9 per cent of the population and they were about $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the Harijans in the composite State. In the composite State, about a lakh of house-sites, half by assignment and half by acquisition, were granted to Harijans. It is indeed a great pity that in Malabar not one house-site has been granted to them so far. This question has been raised on the floor of the House many a time. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to one particular instance. There is a colony called the Pokkanah Kannu Nayadi Colony which is recognized by the Government. Lands were ordered to be acquired for this colony, when the Director of Harijan Welfare came there six years ago. Till this date, the Government have not been able to acquire the required few acres of land for the benefit of these unfortunate poor people. I realize that there is not a large extent of waste lands in Malabar as in other parts of the State and the tenancy conditions in Malabar are entirely different. But that does not mean that there should be such criminal negligence on the part of the Government. The defect is mainly in the working of the Revenue Department. The departmental people say that they have no staff to attend to this matter. The Collector of Malabar and other Collectors have been writing to the Government that unless special staff is sanctioned for acquiring house-sites for Harijans, it is impossible for them to move in the matter. Assurances were given by the present Hon. Minister and also by the previous Hon. Minister that this matter would be urgently attended to. I am sorry to say that not a little finger has been moved in the matter until now. I wish to tell the Hon. Minister for Harijan Welfare that the Tenancy Act has not at all put an end to this problem. On the other hand, the seriousness of the problem has been enhanced. Landlords have been ejecting the poor Harijans by force and under compulsion. When such big landlords go to Court, the poor Harijans are not able to defend themselves. As narrated by the previous speaker, the Harijans are put to a lot of difficulties and hardships. It is impossible for them to adduce evidence. I regret to say that the attitude of the District Harijan Welfare Officers and the Police officials has always been not one of sympathy towards the poor.

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Harijans. With these words, I once again request the Hon. Minister to kindly look into this matter immediately and sanction adequate separate staff to attend to this matter of acquisition of house-sites for Harijans."

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SRI A. RATNAM :— “கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு வீட்டு மனை கொடுப்பதற்காக 1947-48-ம் ஆண்டில் மாகாண வாரியாக ஒரு குழு நியமிக்கப்பட்டு, இந்தத் தமிழகத்திலே வாழும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு மூன்று செண்டு நிலமும், குறிப்பாக மலையாள ஜில்லா விலுள்ள தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு 15 செண்டு நிலமும் கொடுக்கப்பட வேண்டுமென்று சிபாரிசு செய்யப்பட்டது. இது அரசாங்கத்தாரால் ஏற்றுக் கொள்ளப்பட்ட விஷயமாகும். ஆனால், சென்ற ஐந்தாண்டுகளாக என்ன நடந்திருக்கிறதென்று பார்க்கும்போது, மலபாரிலுள்ள ஹரிஜனங்களாகிய தீயர்கள் என்று சொல்லப்பட்ட அந்த சமூகத்திற்கு ஒரு செண்டு நிலம்கூட இன்னும் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லையென்றால் அது பரிதாபத்துக்குரிய விஷயம்; யோசிக்கப்படவேண்டிய விஷயம்; இன்னும் நடக்கவேண்டியவைகளைச் செய்யவேண்டிய விஷயமாகும். மலபாரில் ஏன் ஐந்து வருஷ காலமாக தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு ஒரு செண்டு நிலம்கூட கொடுக்கப்படவில்லையென்றால், அங்கே நிலம் கிடையாது என்ற காரணத்தினால் அல்ல. அவர்களுக்கு வீட்டு மனை வழங்குவதற்கு புரம்போக்கு இருந்தாலும்கூட நகரங்களிலுள்ள நகர சபைகளும், கிராமங்களிலுள்ள பஞ்சாயத்துக்களும் அங்குள்ள தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு வசதி செய்து தரப்போகிறோமென்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு, அதேசமயத்தில் நிலங்களை அவர்களே அபகரித்துக் கொண்டு தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு இதுவரை எந்தவிதமான வசதியையும் செய்துதராமல் ஏமாற்றிக்கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜன வெல்பேர் இலாகாவை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு பார்ப்போமானால், அங்கே ஹரிஜன டைரக்டரோ அல்லது சம்பந்தப்பட்ட அதிகாரிகளோ மலபார் கலெக்டரைக் கேட்பதற்குக்கூட வழியில்லாமல் இருந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஏற்கெனவே யிருந்த மலபார் கலெக்டர் மாற்றப்பட்டு இப்பொழுது வேறொரு கலெக்டர் வருகிறார். வேறொரு கலெக்டர் வருகிற இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்திலாவது மலபாரிலுள்ள தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கும் ஹரிஜன மக்களுக்கும் நிலம் வழங்கப்படவேண்டுமென்றுதான் இந்தப் பிரச்சனை இப்பொழுது எழுப்பப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. நிலங்கள் இருந்தாலும் கொடுக்கப்படுவது கிடையாது. புரம்போக்கு நிலம் இருந்தாலும் வீட்டு மனைக்கோ, உழுது பயிரிடுவதற்கோ தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு கொடுப்பது கிடையாது. தனிப்பட்டவர்களுடைய மனைகளில் வாழும் மக்கள், அவர்களிடம் அடிமைகளாகவேலை செய்துகொண்டு இருக்கும் வரையில்தான் அந்த நிலத்தில் குடியிருக்கமுடியும். தன்னுடைய சுதந்திரத்தையும், சுயமரியாதையையும் விட்டுக்கொடுத்து, அடிமையாய் இருக்கிறவரையில் அவன் அந்த நிலத்தில் குடியிருக்கமுடியும். தன்மான உணர்ச்சியோ, சுதந்திர உணர்ச்சியோ, அவனிடத்தில் ஏற்பட்டு, முன்னேற்றமடையவேண்டுமென்று அவன் எண்ணும்போது, அவன் விரட்டியடிக்கப்படுகிறான். உண்ண உணவு இல்லை. இருப்பதற்கு எட்டு அடி நிலம்கூட தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு கிடையாது இந்த ராஜ்யத்தில். ஆனால், ஆந்திர ராஜ்யத்தில் இவர்களுக்கென 13 லட்ச ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டு, புரம்போக்கு நிலம் இல்லாவிட்டாலும்கூட, தனி நபர்களுடைய நிலத்தை வாங்கிக்கொடுக்க முன் வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். திருவாங்கூர், கொச்சியில் எடுத்துக்கொண்டால், நான் அங்கு சென்று பார்த்திருக்கிறேன், அங்கெல்லாம் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு நிலங்கள் வழங்கப்படுவதில்லையே தவிர, அங்கு வாழும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு முக்கியமாக கல்வி அறிவு ஊட்டப்பட்டு பீ.எ., எம்.எ. தேறி அறிவில் உச்ச நிலையை அடைய உதவி செய்கிறார்கள். இங்கோ தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு தொல்லைதருவது கொஞ்சநஞ்சமல்ல. புரம்போக்கு நிலங்களை வழங்கவேண்டுமென்றால் கலெக்டர்களின் அனுமதி வேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. அதுதான் சீக்கிரம் கிடைப்பதில்லை. இதை ஹரிஜன வெல்பேர் டைரக்டரோ அல்லது ஆட்சியாளரோ சரியாக கவனிப்பது கிடையாது. ஹரிஜன வெல்பேர் ஆபீசுக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் உரிமை மிகவும் சொற்பம். அவர் இதில்

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[Sri A. Ratnam]

தலைமிகுவதற்கில்லை. மலபார் கலெக்டரும், மதுரை கலெக்டரும், ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு எவ்வளவுக்கெவ்வளவு தொல்லைக் கொடுக்க முடியுமோ அவ்வளவுக்கவ்வளவு சங்கடமும், சதியும் செய்து வருகிறார்கள். அங்கே ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சரியாக நிலங்கள் வழங்கப்படுவதில்லை. தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்காக ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட பணம் சரியாக விநியோகிக்கப்படுவதும் கிடையாது. ஹரிஜன வெல்பேர் டைரக்டர், கலெக்டரைக் கேட்க தனக்கு அதிகாரம் இல்லையென்று சொல்லுகிறார். கலெக்டர் மீது கவனம் செலுத்த அரசாங்கத்திற்குத்தான் உத்தரவு இருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லுகிறார். உதாரணமாக 'எந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டு உத்தரவின்படி நீர் என்னை மேற்பார்வை செய்யச் சொல்கிறீர்கள்? உங்களுக்கு அதிகாரம் கிடையாது' என்று மதுரைக் கலெக்டரும், மலபார் கலெக்டரும் ஹரிஜன வெல்பேர் டைரக்டருக்கு எழுதியிருப்பதாக நான் கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன். மேலும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்காக நியமிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் அதிகாரிகள், தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களை தொல்லை செய்து வருகிறார்கள் என்று இந்தச் சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். பொதுவாக ஹரிஜன வெல்பேர் ஆபீசர்கள் ஏதோ பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை பராமரிப்பதும், உணவுப்பொருள்களைக் கண்காணிப்பதுமாகியிருக்கிறார்களே தவிர ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு வீட்டு மனைகள் அளிப்பதற்கோ அல்லது நிலங்கள் அளிப்பதற்கோ இந்த ஆபீசர்களுக்கு அதிகாரம் இல்லை. தாசில்தாருக்கு மனுச்செய்துக்கொண்டு அவர் பின்னாலேயே ஹரிஜனங்கள் திரியவேண்டியவர்களாயிருக்கிறார்கள். அதேமாதிரியாக தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்கள் ரெவின்யூ இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள் தயவையும் கோரவேண்டியவர்களாயிருக்கிறார்கள். கடைசியாக இவர்களுக்கெல்லாம் லஞ்சமும், மாமூலும் கொடுக்கவேண்டிய நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறார்கள். இவ்விதமாக, மிகவும் மோசமாக லஞ்சமும் மாமூலும் வாங்கிக்கொண்டுத் தான் ஒவ்வொருகாரியமும் நடத்துகிறார்கள். லஞ்சம் கொடுத்தால்தான் இந்த ரெவின்யூ இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள் ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய மனுக்களைச் சிபார்சு செய்கிறார்கள்."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—"Sir, the hon. Member is casting unnecessary aspersions on the officers who are not here to defend themselves. I would request him not to do so."

MR. SPEAKER :—"Let not the hon Member make vague allegations. If he could substantiate them, they may be brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister."

SRI A. RATNAM :—"நான் சொல்லுவதெல்லாம் எந்தக்காரணத்திற்காக தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்கள் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள், சதிசெய்யப்படுகிறார்கள் என்பதானே தவிர ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட ஆபீசரைப்பற்றி நான் பேசவில்லை. இந்த ஹரிஜன வெல்பேர் ஆபீசருக்கு அதிக உரிமை அளிக்கப்படாததினால், இவர்கள் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு எந்த விதமான நன்மையும் செய்ய முடிவதில்லை. ஆதலால் இந்த ஆபீசர்களுக்கு அதிக உரிமை அளிக்கும் படியாக அரசாங்கத்தாரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்கள் அரசியலிலும், சமுதாயத்துறையிலும் மிகவும் தாழ்ந்த நிலையில் இருக்கிறார்கள். தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களின் பல குடும்பங்கள் வீடுகள் இன்றி தவித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. இவர்களுடைய குறைகளை ஆட்சியாளர் அலட்சியப்படுத்தலானது."

(Mr. Speaker sounded the gong and the Member resumed his seat.)

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—"Sir, I will not deal with the speech of the hon. Member who spoke last, as he has not been confining himself to Malabar—the subject-matter of the debate—but he has been referring to the general question of eviction of Harijans, acquisition of house-sites for them and lands

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for their cultivation. So far as the hon. Members from Malabar are concerned, the hon. Member, Sri Kurup said that the authorities there have not been doing their duties properly and that no effort has been made by the Government to acquire lands for the Harijans. I should like to say that in Ottapalam itself, I have information that some poramboke lands were shown to them for occupation, but that they refused to occupy them. In other cases also, I do not believe and strongly refute the statement that large scale evictions have taken place in Malabar. The reports from the Collector of Malabar shows that there are only 300 cases of land acquisition which were considered really urgent. I can say without fear of contradiction that except in stray cases here and there, no Harijan family has been thrown out of its residence and no one left without shelter.

“ Sir, the situation in Malabar is peculiar”

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—“ I can tell the Hon. Minister that in one firka six families of Harijans were evicted and they were left practically without any house to live in.”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ Anyhow, the official report says that there are 300 families to be provided for. Sir, it is not possible for the Government to find out how many families are homeless and the only way of getting these figures is by asking the Revenue Department officials to investigate into the matter and prepare records; that has been done and based on such statistics only I say that there are 300 families who have got to be provided with house-sites.

“ Sir, unlike in Tamil Nad, in Malabar, we have a peculiar system and therefore instead of giving 5 cents of land each, we have granted 15 cents. Until the Malabar Tenancy Act was passed and came into operation, really—I agree with the hon. Members from Malabar—no attempt was made in this direction. Before that if no serious attempt was made it was not because of any lack of interest or exertion on the part of the Government, but because of the peculiar circumstances that were prevailing in Malabar and because of the non co-operation of the caste Hindus.

“ Coming to the hon. Member who referred to the chastity of Harijans, I should like to ask him whether he would not admit that so far as chastity was concerned, the case of other communities, whatever community it be, was not beyond question. No useful purpose will be served by the hon. Member referring to one or two exceptional cases and it is not graceful on his part to cast aspersions upon a particular community. I strongly condemn it, Sir.”

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—“ On a point of order, Sir.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Let me hear the point of order.”

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* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—“ Sir, the Hon. Minister for Harijan Welfare is cruel to me, for he is misrepresenting my statement. What I submitted was because the Harijans were poor and because they had no houses of their own, they were compelled by the landlords to quit even at the cost of their chastity. It was the houseless state of the Harijans and the attendant difficulties to which I was referring. I did not cast any aspersion on their character, but it was said just to emphasize the fact that unless and until they had houses of their own to live in, they could not have a safe life. I know very well that Harijan women as well as others have fought against those who wanted to molest them. I never meant any insult to either the Harijan community or any other community. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister not to make such a misrepresentation of my speech.”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ Sir, I only said that it would have been graceful on the part of the hon. Member if he had not mentioned about chastity.

“ Sir, so far as Malabar is concerned, some years ago Swami Vivekananda said that it was a ‘place for lunatics to live in’. After thirty years, a great change has come upon Malabar. It is not due entirely to the efforts of the Government but due to a very great extent to the change of heart on the part of the people of Malabar. Therefore, any effort on the part of the Government alone will not be sufficient unless people also, irrespective of caste or creed co-operate in removing the difficulties of Harijans and solving their problems. I know there was a time when not only untouchability, but even unseeability and unapproachability obtained in Malabar. While I congratulate the people on their achievement in this respect, I want them not to forget what the Government have done in the last 15 years and what men like Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Narayana Guru have done.”

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p.m.

* SRI C. H. KANARAN :—“ On a point of order, Sir, this debate is meant for getting certain information from the Hon. the Minister, that is, whether he will try to give or lease out lands to Harijans and if so, whether it will be done under the same Act as was passed last year or by some other method. He is not giving a straight answer. Let him answer this question.”

MR. SPEAKER :—“ That is no point of order.”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ At the time of issue of orders, the rent settlement staff for fixing fair rent under the Malabar Tenancy Act was appointed. As it would not be possible to find out who were all houseless and who all had no legal right to the existing house-sites until a record of rights was prepared by the rent settlement authorities, the implementation of the scheme for the provision of house-sites for the Harijans was postponed. Thereafter, the Government issued orders suspending rent settlement operations under the Malabar Tenancy Act and

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disbanded the staff employed for the purpose pending further amendment of the Act. According to the amendment proposed, there was no need for preparing a record of rights or for the employment of the rent settlement staff. But as suggested by Mr. Kurup and as I committed myself on behalf of the Government some time ago, we have strengthened the staff and they will be very helpful in expediting the work relating to the acquisition of house-sites. As I said except 300 families, there are no families to be provided with house-sites, according to the basis I have just now enumerated. Of course, there are a few stray cases of eviction and they are being looked into.

“ There is also another difficulty in implementing the scheme in Malabar unlike in Tamil Nad. In Malabar acquisition has to be made for each individual separately and not for a batch of cases. This is a difficulty which we face in Malabar. I do not want to explain the system of kudiyruppu as there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding about it. Further, the Malabar Tenancy Act as amended by the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Act of 1954, confers fixity of tenure on tenants of kudiyruppus, that is home-steads, with the right of purchase after ten years' continuous occupation.”

* SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—“ The Hon. the Minister has not understood the problem. The huts in which Harijans live are not kudiyruppus. For being a kudiyruppu, a Harijan must have the right of kudiyruppu as well as on the property. But we refer to what are called *ulkudis*. In the Malabar Tenancy Act, only a qualified fixity is given. That is, if an *ulkudi*-holder has been in continuous possession of the property for twelve months, he will not be evicted unless an alternative site is given to him in the same village. There is no reference to the Harijan problem or the kudiyruppus here.”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ Most of these people who come under ‘ kudiyruppu ’ are Harijans. That is why I referred to it.”

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—“ It is not kudiyruppu, but *ulkudi*.”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ A large number of them are Harijans and that is why I said such cases were a few in number. Acquisition proceedings are being instituted in favour of Harijans. All that I can now say is that the Government are earnest and sincere . . .”

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—“ Will you give houses to those who have no houses at all? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ I want hon. Members also not to exaggerate things. While I sympathize with the lot of the members of the Harijan community and while I realize that the Government have a duty to perform in this respect, I give the House this assurance that we will consider the question

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of appointing a special officer after getting a report from the Collector. The Government are expecting a report to be submitted within a month or two. After the report becomes available to us, we will think of appointing a special officer to go into the question. Last time, when I visited Malabar, I discussed this question with the Collector, the District Welfare Officer and some other prominent gentlemen. There is a lot to be done. The problem is not so easy of solution as we imagine. I may give this assurance that the Government are sincere, earnest and determined to see that the question of providing house-sites and cultivable lands to Harijans is attended to as early as possible and the work expedited. I hope hon. Members will be satisfied with this assurance."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I now adjourn the House to meet at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 11th August 1954."

The House then adjourned.

